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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 18 | Humidity 83% Fog or Mist would occur in early morning Sensex 71,847 | Nifty 21,658 | Gold 63,380 | Silver 75,000 | Dollar 83.23 | Euro 91.09 | GBP 105.55

10 months after inauguration of renovated Bal Bhavan, basic facilities such as seating, electronic signage still amiss

THE TOY RIDE

Renovation undertaken at a cost of Rs 94 lakh

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A few facilities and amenities are yet to be done up by the authorities concerned at the renovated Bal Bhavan inaugurated on March 25, 2023 by the then chief minister Basavaraj S Bommai in the presence of cabinet ministers, MPs and MLAs.

The development of Putani Express Station (for the toy train) and surrounding places were taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 94 lakh.

The developmental works include the construction of the entrance gate, two seating facilities with roofs for children and their parents to be not inconvenienced during monsoon.

The other developmental work is the installation of three electronic boards that provide information about the facilities available at Bal Bhavan alongside the timings of the Putani Express.

However, the electronic boards and seating facilities are yet to be opened for the public due to the reasons best known to the authorities concerned. No one working at Putani Express station is ready to explain why these facilities remain inaccessible to the public.

"I do not know what purpose these electronic boards will serve. All these days, we are aware of facilities available at the Bal Bhavan and the timings of Putani Express. It is a waste of public money," said Shankar Gowda, a parent who accompanied his son to the Bal Bhavan.

Seating facility at Bal Bhavan gathering dust, visitors complain

Some of the parents said the seating facilities are full of dust and they would not be in a condition for children to use them.

"Bal Bhavan authorities must

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **"Bal Bhavan authorities must ensure the seating facilities are clean**
> —Rajaram N, parent

Crowd puller

NOC from traffic police suggested before malls, tech parks are set up

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After the recent traffic chaos on Bellary Road around Phoenix Mall of Asia, the traffic police will soon be recommending to the state government to mandate a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to be obtained from the department before malls and tech parks among other establishments that attract large crowds are allowed to be set up.

The municipal body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) currently requires builders to submit a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) to the traffic department and obtain an NOC; however, it is not mandatory.

MN Anucheth, joint commissioner of police, traffic, told Bangalore Mirror that currently, there is no mandate for builders of establishments such as malls and tech parks that receive a significant crowd to obtain a NOC from the traffic department.

"Only for those establishments requiring permission under the Cinematograph Act, NOC from the police is required. Places of entertainment like music shows and concerts among others require a NOC from the police too," he explained.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Crafty season

The Bengaluru Arts and Crafts Festival is all set for shopping during the Indian festival of Sankranthi. This festival is unique as it brings various products under one roof. You can get your hands on colour powders, jewellery, hosieries, decorative items, and more. **Where: White House Convention Centre, HSR Layout; When: until January 14**

02 Art of storytelling

Storyteller Neelesh Misra is set to perform for the first time in the city, where he will narrate stories and film and non-film songs written by him. This is part of his national storytelling journey with his band. The tour has already travelled to Pune and Gurugram. According to him, a storyteller is nothing without his listeners, and there is no greater joy than being able to narrate stories to a live audience.
Where: BR Ambedkar Auditorium
When: January 6; 6 pm

Easy discount

Lulu Mall has a sale with a 50% discount on products. Many brands at Lulu Mall, Rajaji Nagar, and Lulu Daily in Falcon City Mall are selling their items at half price until January 7. All Lulu stores will be open until midnight for easy shopping. The sale started on January 4, and shoppers can join a midnight auction at Lulu as part of the discount sale. Additionally, Lulu on Sale, the 'End of Season Sale' shopping event, will continue at Lulu until January 21. Lulu is offering various items, including branded apparel, accessories, bags, footwear, sportswear, home appliances, electronics, gadgets, and jewellery, with discounts of up to 50% at the Lulu Fashion Store. The mall's entertainment zone, Funtura, also has discounts for kids, said a release. — BMB

Little ones can't catch break from coughing

City doctors report increase in cases of long coughs and colds in kids, persisting for over two weeks; they highlight importance of medical attention

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According to experts, concurrently, there has been a rise in cases of lower respiratory tract infections

Numerous children in the city are said to be experiencing prolonged bouts of coughing and colds. There are a notable number of young patients who have been persistently coughing for over two weeks. Suman K, a tech professional, said, "Both my children were unwell and constantly coughing, and I had to seek medical advice from a paediatrician. I was quite surprised to observe that a significant portion of the kids present at the clinic were also repeatedly coughing. It seemed like many of them were grappling with the same health issue." According to experts, concurrently, there has been a rise in cases of lower respiratory tract infections and instances of anaemia.

Dr Santosh Kumar (Consultant, Paediatrician, and Neonatologist, Motherhood Hospitals, Banashankari) said, "In the recent 2 to 3 weeks, there has been a noticeable increase in upper respiratory tract infections, particularly viral flu, affecting children. Notably, a majority of these cases have required the administration of inhaled steroids, indicating a more severe nature of the illnesses. The prolonged duration of colds and coughs in children can extend beyond 10–15 days before achieving full recovery."

> **"Both my kids were unwell and constantly coughing, and I had to seek medical advice from a paediatrician**
> – Suman K, a tech professional

Adding to this, Dr Archana M (Consultant - Paediatric Infectious Diseases, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road), said, "Around 5–10% of children can present with prolonged cough and cold. There are varied reasons for prolonged respiratory symptoms, and the treatment also varies accordingly. The majority of them present with waxing and waning symptoms of cough and cold; this is because of recurrent exposure to different viruses."

During the recent meeting, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao suggested to parents not send their kids if they were unwell. Dr Arachana said, "The classical example would be when a school-going child is sent with a viral respiratory infection to school. The child would get exposed to a different virus from the school environment and hence suffer from another viral respiratory infection. This would appear to be a prolonged respiratory illness. Ideally, any child with a viral respiratory infection has to be kept away from school until the resolution of symptoms. Also, children with an initial viral infection, especially the influenza virus, are prone to secondary bacterial infections, or they may be complicated by an ear infection or sinusitis requiring antibiotics."

Meanwhile, Dr Santosh Kumar highlighted that during this period, there has been a significant upswing in the occurrence of viral croup, primarily linked to the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). This condition is characterised by an inspiratory sound. In the outpatient department (OPD), an average of 15-20 cases per day have been recorded, constituting a substantial portion of the 100 cases presenting with various illnesses.

"Furthermore, there has been a notable increase in cases exhibiting symptoms akin to bronchiolitis or pneumonia over the same timeframe. These cases, similar to croup, display lower respiratory system symptoms, and some individuals also report conjunctivitis in the eye. The overall scenario underscores the importance of heightened awareness and medical attention during this period of increased respiratory infections among kids," he explained.

Doctors say that they conduct a thorough assessment of the child's overall health, and recommend appropriate treatment tailored to the underlying cause.

Coimbatore-Bengaluru Vande Bharat: Top choice

The Coimbatore-Bengaluru Vande Bharat train was operated with full occupancy on the first three days of its commercial run during the week. Despite rail passenger associations considering the departure time of 5 am as too early, the occupancy has been full. The train runs throughout the week, except on Thursdays. Railway officials have said that the seats have been fully booked for the upcoming three days too.

So far, there have been no symptoms of the Vande Bharat cutting into the ridership of the Uday Express, which departs from Coimbatore Junction at 5:45 am and proceeds to Bengaluru via Jolarpet. Business owners say that since the Vande Bharat runs through Hosur, the ridership is likely to remain high. On the other hand, the business of buses bound for the route is also expected to be unaffected, as they often ply at night. The only development that is expected to take place is a decrease in the number of commuters using their cars to carpool and get by between the two cities.

While passenger associations have appreciated the numerous options now available for commuters to travel between the two cities, they have requested the operation of a nighttime train for the convenience of elderly travellers and others.

The Vande Bharat saves 20 minutes of travel time compared to the fastest train between the two states, Train No. 12678 Coimbatore-Bangalore, a daily train that reaches the destination in six hours and 50 minutes. On the other hand, Vande Bharat Express includes better travel comfort, faster acceleration (160 km in 129 seconds against 146 seconds earlier), Kavach compatibility to prevent train collisions, ergonomic reclining seats in chair-cars, superior interiors, better fire safety, and CCTV in the coaches. — BMB

Flower power set to go litter-free, eco-friendly

Lalbagh authorities, BBMP, NGOs join hands to keep R-Day show clean and green

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File photo of the Glass House during last year's Independence Day flower show at Lalbagh

Authorities at Lalbagh Botanical Garden, with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and various NGOs, have laid down stringent rules to ensure that the upcoming Republic Day flower show is litter-free and eco-friendly.

According to M Jagadeesh, joint director, Horticulture (Lalbagh), it will be mandatory for stall vendors to use cloth bags; failing which, strict measures will be taken.

"All the vendors will be directed to not use plastic bags and only cloth bags will be allowed. There will be thorough checks on all four gates of the botanical garden so plastic does not enter the venue. A penalty will be imposed on vendors on the first offense. However, the stall will be removed from the venue in case of any subsequent offense," said Jagadeesh.

Other measures taken include the availability of drinking water, eco-friendly bowls, and plates, marshals to man the venue, and a large number of volunteers to help achieve the goal of keeping Lalbagh plastic-free, litter-free, and vehicle-free during the event.

"We plan to deploy 50 Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) marshals to monitor vendors using banned items. Marshals will be deployed from day one and gate checks will be done more strictly. We have around 60 staff guarding the Lalbagh area regularly. Another 50 staffers will be brought in during the show period. We will also have nearly 200 volunteers from various self-help groups and NGOs, who will support us in the endeavour. The park will be divided into 10 divisions and every division will be manned by around 20 volunteers and staff," said another senior official from the Horticulture Department (Lalbagh).

Like Kadalekai Parishe

Officials and volunteers are also planning to take a leaf out of Kadalekai Parishe recently organised in Malleshwaram to ensure that the aim to make the Republic Day flower show zero-plastic and litter-free is a success this year. "The biggest takeaway from kadalekai Parishe this year was a drastic reduction in the amount of trash generated. While nearly 3.5 tonnes of trash per day was generated last year at the event, it was barely 750 kg this year. The main reason was the presence of 30 BBMP marshals and nearly 400 college students as volunteers. We had marshals at every 200-300 metres, manning the fair, seizing banned items, and providing alternatives at the venue itself," said G Nagaraj of Indian Plogger's Army, one of the NGOs that will help the department attain its goal at the event.

> **We plan to deploy 50 BBMP marshals to monitor vendors using banned items; gate checks will be done more strictly. We have around 60 staff guarding the Lalbagh** –Official

Experts say stricter gate checks will play an important role in making the event litter and plastic-free.

"While there is considerable progress in reducing waste generated at flower shows every year, the outcome will be better if gate checks are done more strictly. The Republic Day flower show 2023 turned out to be much cleaner compared to the 2023 Independence Day flower show. Gate checks were more stringent during the Republic Day flower show event. We have a large number of volunteers that came together during Kadalekai Parishe and they will join us for the upcoming event as well," said Odette Katrak, founder of Beautiful Bharat, another NGO supporting the Horticulture Department.

E-bus bidding: Thrice is nice, hopes BMTC

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Recently electric buses were added to BMTC's fleet

Failing to get bidders for the procurement of 320 electric buses the last two times, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is trying yet again. According to BMTC officials, in the last tender, there was only a single bidder.

BMTC has been in the process of electrifying its fleet but not getting successful bidders is proving to be a hurdle. BMTC had called a tender for procurement of 13m 320 low-floor AC electric buses which were also touted to be disabled-friendly with retractable ramps. It is procuring these buses under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model and will utilise the special assistance to states for the capital investment 2023-24 scheme.

A senior BMTC official told BM, "We have floated tenders three times now. For the first tender call, there were no bids, for the second, we received a single bid. One bid came from Olectra Greentech Ltd but the quoted rate was exorbitant. We had to cancel the tender and retender it."

As per the revised tender, these buses will have to run 250 km per day per bus for 365 days as opposed to 225 km per day. Annually, the buses will have to run 87,500 km. For the deployment of the 320 buses, BMTC has chosen four depots--Depot-7 (Subhash Nagar), Depot-13 (Katriguppe), Depot-18 (Whitefield) and Depot-25 (HSR Layout).

The service operator will also have to earn green revenues accruable from the mitigation of greenhouse gases as a result of the implementation of the project, if available under applicable law. The operator shall also undertake to prepare the project for availing green revenues and get these registered under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under Applicable Laws or any other such mechanism available during the Contract Period. The Operator shall share 50% of the revenues earned from CDM with the Authority.

Woman gets daughter kidnapped

A woman hired a man to abduct her daughter, in Banashankari. The woman, Ayesha Siddiqui, is divorced and the child lives with the father. The abductor, identified as Wasim, was allegedly hired by Ayesha to get the girl from her ex-husband Shafi Ulla. Wasim had just joined Shafi Ulla's furniture shop as a worker on the very day he abducted the child.

Shafi Ulla lives in Banashankari with his parents and daughter. Recounting the events, Shafi Ulla disclosed that Wasim had joined as a worker in his furniture company on December 28. He kidnapped his daughter on the same day. He said that after their divorce, his ex-wife had remarried.

Shafi Ulla reported the abduction to the Banashankari Police Station on December 28, and the police filed a case under IPC section 363 pertaining to kidnapping. Subsequent investigations revealed that the child was living with her mother in Kanakapura.

Shafi Ulla claimed that Ayesha had forsaken their daughter, opting to marry someone else. It was also alleged that she had offered Shafi Ulla Rs 1 lakh, urging him to remarry and abandon the child. **BMB**

Engineering student dies by suicide

A 19-year-old engineering student is said to have died by suicide at him home Bengaluru Rural. Vishu Uttappa, a first-year engineering student, is said to have used a double-barrel gun son belonging to Tammaiah, a security officer. Vishu's parents were out shopping when the incident occurred. Tammaiah, hails from Kodagu and has been residing in Bengaluru for the past 15 years. He received a distressing call from Vishu while they were shopping. Apologising to his mother on the call, Vishu disconnected the phone abruptly. When Tammaiah and his wife returned home, they discovered their son had died.

Superintendent of Police Mallikarjun Baldandi, from Bengaluru Rural, visited the house, revealing that, according to the parents, Vishu was grappling with academic challenges and experiencing stress related to his studies. **BMB**

Revenue dept survey has eye on Hennagara Lake

Department surveys lake after complaints regarding squatters, finds 16 guntas eaten into; to share fresh maps, buffer zone with area tahsildar

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The encroached area of Hennagara Lake will be reclaimed, and the Gram Panchayat officials will be directed to fence the lake boundary, said officials

A survey of Hennagara Lake in South Bengaluru conducted by the Revenue Department with the aim of checking the extent of encroachment shows that while 16 guntas of the lake area have been encroached upon, the buffer zone of the lake includes 5 acres and 39 guntas of private land.

The lake survey was taken up by the officials after residents in the area raised the issue of illegal dumping of soil in the water body by a private developer to raise the ground's elevation. "The lake has been surveyed multiple times in the past as well. However, we resurveyed the water body recently after we received many complaints from the locals raising concerns regarding encroachment. The findings have been deduced based on the survey documents from the British era and neighbouring survey numbers," said an official from the Revenue Department. Officials informed BM that the fresh maps of the lake and its buffer zone will be shared with the area tehsildar for further processing. The encroached area will be reclaimed, and the Gram Panchayat officials will be directed to fence the lake boundary in order to avoid any encroachment in the future.

BangaloreMirror
Uproar over Hennagara Lake planning dispute

BM's report on December 20 about residents' complaint on private property development

> **"The lake has been surveyed multiple times in the past. However, we resurveyed it recently after we received complaints** – an official

"While more than 5 acres of the buffer zone is private land, the court will have to decide on the fate of these lands since the buffer zone rule came in much later," said the official. However, locals have reiterated that the buffer zone of the lake should be claimed by the government to avoid any flooding events in the future.

"Any construction activity in the buffer zone will lead to flooding of houses and residential areas in the vicinity of the water body. Even though it is private land, it should be acquired by the government. The lake's command area has increased over the last few years, and it has flooded some private properties early in the monsoon this year," said a resident of the area. Locals demand that either the lake be made deeper to increase the lake's capacity or nearby private land in the buffer zone be acquired.

Get ready to pay online for KSRTC rides

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KSRTC passengers will soon be able to make payments via smart electronic ticketing machines (ETMs) on all their buses. The corporation has called for a tender for the procurement of 10,000 smart ETMs on a rental basis. As BMTC enables digital payment for its passengers, KSRTC will soon be allowing its passengers to make payments digitally and hassle-free. Currently, it has a GPRS-enabled ETM and will be moving to smart ETMs. KSRTC has called for a tender for the selection of a technology solution provider for the supply, commissioning, and maintenance of ETMs with a comprehensive ticketing solution for KSRTC on a rental basis for 4 years.

A smart electronic ticketing machine is an Android-based hand-held device that captures ticketing information, prints tickets, and transfers real-time ticket data to the central server through a 4G/Wi-Fi interface. The device is built with QR code and RFID readers that support UPI and other modes of digital transactions. The device has a clear-resolution display and touchpad with an intuitive user interface. It also has an in-built thermal printer that enables printing tickets and reports instantly.

The bidder will be required to supply 10,245 ETMs, but it is estimated to increase to 15,000 over five years. As per current estimates, the 825 ETMs will be distributed to Bangalore Central, 595 to Ramanagar, 600 to Mandya, 1,435 to Mysore, 645 to Chamarajanagar, 730 to Kolar, 700 to Chikkaballapur, 800 to Tumkur, 740 to Hassan, 685 to Chikmagalur, 600 to Mangalore, 570 to Puttur, 490 to Davangere, 450 to Shimoga, 370 to Chitraurdga, and 10 to Kempegowda Bus Station.

The project will enable seamless card payment and card validation, UPI payment, QR ticketing, and QR validation to manage all kinds of ticket transactions and digital payments. The solution will also help

KSRTC sets in motion process to procure electronic ticketing machines for all buses

the conductors with the hassle-free issue of tickets, and the organisation will benefit from getting real-time information on tickets issued, revenue collected, etc. through the dashboard.

ETMs will have the ability to charge and half-charge tickets, concession tickets, luggage tickets, passes, inspector tickets, police warrant tickets, journalist tickets, freedom fighter tickets, senior citizen tickets, zero-valued tickets, etc. It will also be able to issue various concession tickets with a percentage reduction in passenger fare and to print remarks on the ticket where the ticket is printed or issued with no cash transaction, as well as group tickets if needed.

It will also be able to digitise various other sundry payments by conductors, leaving a digital trace at every step. Small payments and functions such as dhaba collection, tollgate fee payments, bus stand fee payments, quantity of diesel filled in home depots and outside depots, and more. The camera on the ETM will be used for sending photos in case of accidents. KSRTC has also proposed to integrate the ETMs with the Online Passenger Reservation System (OPRS), Vehicle Tracking and Monitoring System (VTMS), and other IT projects .

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Underpass undone

Mysore Road

The incomplete underpass opposite RVCE, Mysore Road, raises concerns over prolonged construction. The authorities concerned must look into it.

Discarded

Cox Town

Scrap and vehicles have occupied Wheeler Road in Cox Town under the flyover for years. This raises questions on BBMP's oversight.

Bus stop mess

KR Puram

The neglected KR Puram bus stop next to Rama Hospital demands immediate maintenance and cleaning. The situation here is causing inconvenience to commuters and pedestrians.

Drizzle forces fading winter to linger on

Parts of city see 25 degree C daytime temperature; more cloudy days predicted

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The sudden temperature drop during the day has compelled many to postpone packing up the warm clothes. Various areas reported daytime temperatures around 25 degrees Celsius, accompanied by overcast weather and drizzles or light rainfall in different parts of the city. Weather experts attribute this unusual seasonal weather to disturbances in Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea.

The Mahadevapura zone reported a minimum temperature of 17.9 degrees Celsius, while the maximum reached only 24.9 degrees Celsius. Similarly, Yelahanka's temperature ranged from 18.4 to 25.4 degrees Celsius. An update from Namma Karnataka Weather on the X platform stated, "It was a cloudy day in Bengaluru with the maximum temperature at 25.5°C. Looks like we will have a few more cloudy days this week. Expecting a warmer night with a minimum at more than 18°C. Post January 15, we are likely to have clearer days. Hope we can sneak in some cold winter nights before spring starts in February."

The weather forecast says city will see cloudy skies till January 15

> **Looks like we will have a few more cloudy days this week. Expecting a warmer night with a minimum at more than 18°C**
>
> –Namma Karnataka Weather, on X

Low-pressure area

According to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, a low-pressure area persists over the Southeast Arabian Sea, with a trough extending from the associated cyclonic circulation off the north Kerala coast. These conditions are expected to result in scattered to widespread light to moderate rains and isolated heavy rains in specific areas of Dakshina Kannada, Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, Chamarajanagar, Shivamogga, Mysuru, and Mandya districts. The rest of the state is likely to experience cloudy conditions with isolated very light to light rains over the next five days.

Coastal Karnataka has already received moderate rainfall since Wednesday night. Kodi in Udupi recorded the highest at 86.5 mm, which is quite unusual. Skymet Weather updates predict continued rainfall, attributing it to a low-pressure area in the southeast Arabian Sea and a cyclonic circulation over the southwest Bay of Bengal.

Trough time

"A trough extends from the cyclonic circulation to the North coast of Kerala and the south Karnataka coast. Another cyclonic circulation is reported over the southwest Bay of Bengal off the south Sri Lanka coast, extending up to 5.8 km above mean sea level. Coastal Karnataka is expected to receive rain on January 5, while interior Karnataka may experience light to moderate showers during this period. The spell is anticipated to be one of the most intense and widespread in recent times for South India. While widespread heavy downpours are not expected, isolated pockets in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Coastal Karnataka might experience intense bursts of rainfall. This upcoming rain brings relief from the dry season, replenishing water resources and boosting agricultural activity. The hope is that this wet spell proves beneficial for the entire South Indian region," Skymet Weather updates said.

It may be noted that last year, there was a deficit of rainfall in the city ranging from 26% to 49%. For example, a few areas in Mahadevapura in 2023 received just 489.7 mm of rainfall, thereby having a deficit of 49%. On the other hand, Bengaluru north received 634.4 mm of rainfall as against the average rainfall of 856.7 mm, with a shortage of 26%.

Man held for blackmailing wife for divorce

A man, who threatened his wife to make her private video and photos viral if she does not give him divorce, has been arrested from Belagavi, police said on Thursday.

The accused has been identified as Kiran Patil, a resident of Belagavi city.

According to police, the accused resorted to blackmailing his wife to get married to his lover, the police said.

The wife had made many attempts to convince him but failed. The accused had approached the court seeking divorce from the victim. Meanwhile, he also started blackmailing her over making her private video and photos viral on social media.

The victim had lodged a complaint with the District Cyber Crime Police station. The police had questioned the accused and found private videos and photos of the victim on his mobile. The accused husband tried to escape from the police station and attempted to commit suicide by drinking poison. The police had admitted him to a hospital and after his discharge on Wednesday sent him to the Hindalaga prison. **–IANS**

Stamps out, post 4-yr break

As part of its ongoing effort to redefine 'connecting people' in the online era, the Karnataka Postal Circle will be reviving its annual state-level philatelic exhibition, which was last held in 2019 in Mangalore.

"Ultimately, we want people to rediscover the joy of sending letters and postcards. We believe that this can be achieved by giving them a glimpse of the rich postal heritage of India," Director of Postal Services (HQ) Kaiya Arora told PTI.

The 13th edition, Karnapex 2024, which will be held in Bengaluru between January 5 and January 8, will piece together Karnataka's socio-cultural history through stamps, special covers, special cancellations and pictorial collections, Arora added. **–PTI**

Hiring recovery this year; 11% rise likely in B'luru

The overall hiring this year is expected to grow 8.3 per cent this year with the job market showing signs of recovery in December, a report said on Thursday.

December witnessed a 2 per cent growth in hiring, the foundit Annual Trends Report said.

It projected an overall hiring expansion of 8.3 per cent for 2024, with Bengaluru expected to see an 11 per cent surge. Key sectors that will experience increased hiring include manufacturing, BFSI, automotive, retail, and travel and tourism, it said.

According to the data from the foundit Insights Tracker (fit), hiring activity in 2023 was 5 per cent lower than in 2022, indicating a slowdown in the job market.

However, the index also showed a 2 per cent increase in the last month of 2023, suggesting a possible turnaround in the hiring scenario.

"The economy experienced a shift towards the end of 2023, breaking the previous trend that had been consistent since mid-2022. The job market entered a phase of variability, where both quit and hiring rates stabilised.

"Despite the lower number of job openings, the imbalance between job openings and hires pointed to the ongoing difficulties for businesses to find the right talent," the report noted.

In 2023, certain sectors showcased remarkable resilience and growth, becoming beacons of success amid a challenging environment, said the report.

The maritime and shipping industry saw a 28 per cent increase in hirings, capitalising on the increased global trade, and adeptly managing supply chain disruptions, it said.

Sectors that will see hiring include manufacturing, BFSI and retail

Simultaneously, retail, and travel and tourism sectors, both witnessed a 25 per cent uptick, while advertising, market research, and public relations sector saw an 18 per cent increase, it said.

The foundit Insights Tracker (fit) analysed data on its platform from January 2023 to December 2023.

Meanwhile, the report further said increased demand for talent with expertise in emerging technologies is anticipated in 2024.

While initial delays in IT hiring are possible, demand for AI/ML, data science, and cybersecurity experts is expected to go up as these skills are essential for enabling digital transformation, innovation, and security across sectors, as per the report.

"Stepping into 2024 marks a shift from resilience to an era of remarkable growth in certain sectors. Despite increasing role of automation, it's crucial to acknowledge that the human touch remains unparalleled in a tech-driven world, underscoring the importance of upskilling initiatives," foundit CEO Sekhar Garisa said. **–PTI**

2nd Edition

PLASTFOCUS

CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

Setting a Course for Plastics

THE SECOND EDITION OF PLASTFOCUS, ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S EVOLVED PLASTIC EXHIBITIONS, IS ALL SET TO BE MORE EXTENSIVE AND IMPROVED, EXTENDING A RED-CARPET WELCOME TO THE ENTIRE PLASTIC INDUSTRY TO GATHER UNDER ONE ROOF

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Four years following its remarkable debut in 2019, PlastFocus, an evolved plastics exhibition for the best manufacturing technologies, is poised to leave its mark once again in 2024. The energetically charged second edition – PlastFocus 2024 will be more extensive and improved.

India's emergence as the leading global hub for plastics manufacturing and processing deserves appreciation. What better way to showcase this prowess than by bringing together plastics manufacturers and dealers from across the world and expose them to our best technologies? Scheduled between February 1 and 5, 2024, the exhibition will have more than 1,260 exhibitors, 1.8 lakh visitors, a sprawling 90,000 sq mtr exhibition area, and 27 participating countries. The opportunities are boundless during the five-day event, powered by the Plastics Machinery Manufacturers Association of India and organised by Triune Exhibitors Pvt Ltd at India's best trade fair venue – Yashobhoomi (India International Convention & Expo Centre), Dwarka, New Delhi. Just an hour's drive from the national capital, the venue, equipped with superlative facilities, is well-connected by air, road, and rail.

BREAKING BARRIERS

The key focus of PlastFocus 2024 is to offer a stage for every stakeholder in the industry to present their latest innovations and solutions. With over 200 live factories, this year's event is all set to serve as an ideal hub for knowledge exchange.

Talking about the event, Tushar Parikh, Chairman, Plastics Machinery Manufacturers Association of India (PMMAI), says, "PlastFocus 2024 will feature cutting-edge technologies through live machines. It's an opportunity to discern the distinctions between machines manufactured in India and their global counterparts."

FOSTERING COHESION

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With the show already sold out, the organisers are slogging to evaluate every possibility to accommodate aspiring exhibitors who do not want to miss the bus. Focusing on demonstrating cutting-edge technologies, the event's exhibitor's profile includes machine manufacturers, raw material suppliers/services, molds and dies, finished products, emerging technologies, and recycling and green solutions. Visitors gracing the occasion include top heads of companies, purchase managers, government officials, scientists, engineers, marketing managers, financial heads, key opinion leaders, trade associations, investors, consultants, retailers, and dealers.

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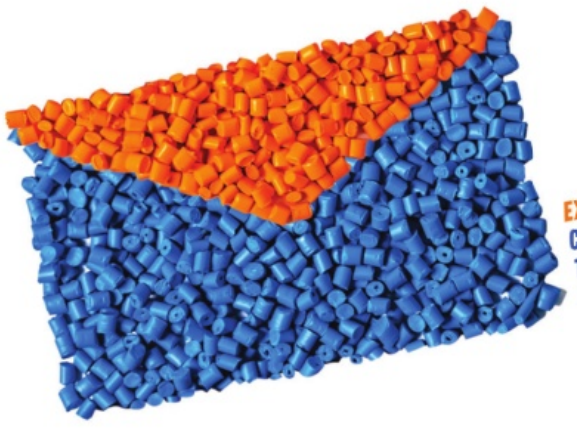

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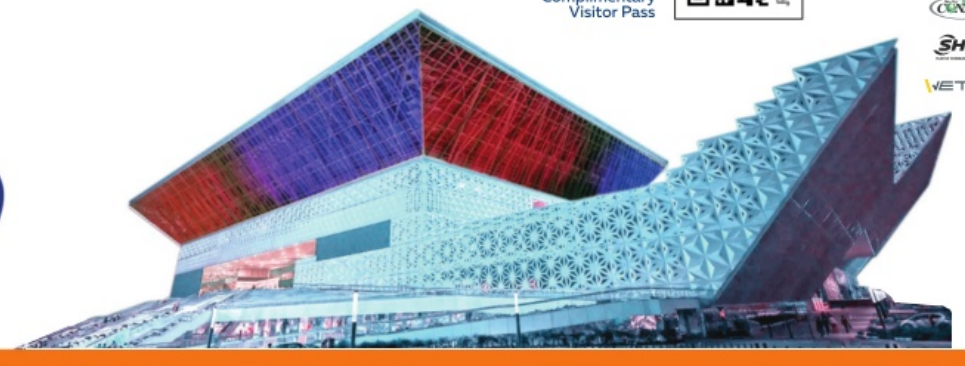

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ALL A-BORED?

How to teach children to manage their own boredom these holidays

As the holidays progress, parents will no doubt be hearing a classic line from their kids: "I'm booooooored".

We all get bored from time to time and there is nothing particularly wrong with feeling bored. In fact, it is a useful emotion because it helps us reflect and make changes to what we're doing or our surroundings.

However, many children are still learning the skill of managing boredom. If you're wondering how to respond when kids complain they are bored (without just letting them watch more TV), here are some ideas to try.

Boredom helps kids learn

Boredom is mildly unpleasant, but it's OK for kids to feel bored. In fact, boredom provides the context for children to develop a number of important skills, including:

- the ability to tolerate less-than-ideal experiences
- manage frustration and regulate emotions
- creative thinking
- problem solving, planning, and organisation
- independence and self-sufficiency.

These skills are central to children developing a sense of control over their own happiness and wellbeing.

Why do children complain about being bored?

Typically, children's lives are structured and organised for them. When presented with unstructured time, children can have difficulty thinking of and organising things to do.

If children's complaints of boredom always result in adults entertaining them, then children may not get an opportunity to learn to entertain themselves or generate their own ideas.

Sometimes, children seem to reject every idea that we suggest. They may have learned that this leads to a long discussion about what to do, or in us (eventually) engaging in an activity with them. In both circumstances, the child does not have to manage their own boredom.

The trick is to help support children generate their own ideas (rather than suggesting ideas to them).

How can parents help kids learn to manage boredom?

There's a lot parents can do to prepare for boredom and support their child learning to manage their own boredom. Here are some ideas:

Create a 'menu' of activities. Talk to your child about what they enjoy doing, their interests and their passions. Develop a menu of activities with your child that they can refer to when they're bored. Younger children may wish to illustrate theirs.

Try to list activities your child can do without your input – a mix of new things and stuff they've enjoyed in the past. Include some quicker activities (such as colouring, building a furniture fort, or having a teddy bear picnic), as well as longer-term projects (such as a big puzzle, reading a novel, working on sporting skills). Put the menu where your child can refer to it.

Get everything ready. Make sure you have the toys, equipment and materials available and accessible for your child to do the stuff on their list. Toys and activities do not have to be expensive to be fun.

Prepare your child. Let your child know the plan for the day and the length of time they're expected to do the activities on their menu. This will reassure them they're not going to be on their own "forever". A series of pictures to illustrate the day's schedule might help. Before a period of free time, discuss two or three rules (for example, "Play quietly until mum and dad are finished and if you need to speak to us, say, 'Excuse me' and wait until we're free").

Talk about rewards. At first, you could offer a reward (such as a special activity with you, a favourite snack or some screen time) if your child occupies themselves appropriately for a period of time. Phase out rewards over time by gradually increasing the amount of time your child needs to occupy themselves, and then offer them only every now and then.

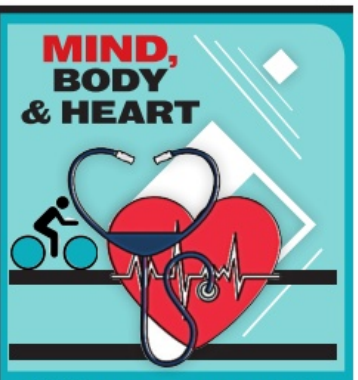
Prompt your child to use their list. If your child tells you they're bored, redirect them to their list. Keep this conversation short and to the point.

If necessary, help your child get started. Some children might need help to get started in an activity. It may be necessary to spend a few minutes setting them up. Try not to do everything yourself, but rather use questions to help them to problem solve. You might ask, "What are you going to make? What will you need to make that? Where do you think you'll start?"

Encourage your child. When your child gets started on an appropriate activity themselves, offer praise and attention. You might say, "You found something to do all by yourself. I'm impressed!" Stop what you're doing from time to time to praise them for keeping busy. Do this before they have lost interest, but over time, aim to gradually extend the amount of time before commenting.

Spend time with your child. While it is important for children to learn how to manage boredom, children also need to feel valued and know their parents want to spend time with them. Make time for your child and be available to them when you are together.

(By Trevor Mazzucchelli, Curtin University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

High-fat diets

Immune system hampered

High-fat diets affect genes linked not only to obesity, colon cancer and irritable bowels, but also to the immune system, brain function, according to a study in mouse models.

High in fat, bad for you

"Word on the street is that plant-based diets are better for you, and in many cases that's true. However, a diet high in fat, even from a plant, is one case where it's just not true," said Frances Sladek, a cell biology professor at the varsity. The study, reported in a paper in the journal Scientific Reports, documents the many impacts of high-fat diets.

Double whammy

It showed major changes in genes related to fat metabolism and the composition of gut bacteria, as well as changes in genes regulating susceptibility to infectious diseases.

"We saw pattern recognition genes, ones that recognise infectious bacteria, take a hit. We saw cytokine signalling genes take a hit, which help the body control inflammation," Sladek said. "So, it's a double whammy. These diets impair immune system genes in the host, and they also create an environment in which harmful gut bacteria can thrive."

Study encourages people to watch eating habits

The study also showed that all three high-fat diets increase the expression of ACE2 and other host proteins that are used by Covid spike proteins to enter the body.

In addition, the team observed that high-fat food increased signs of stem cells in the colon.

"You'd think that would be a good thing, but actually they can be precursors to cancer," Sladek said.

The researchers hope the study will cause people to closely examine their eating habits. —IANS

Bal Bhavan awaits basic amenities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ensure the seating facilities are clean. They are collecting a fee for using Bal Bhavan. They spent tax-payers' money to develop the facility. It is their responsibility to maintain it," said Rajaram N, a parent.

One of the banners put up by Bangalore Smart City Limited was seen lying at the entrance of the Bal Bhavan. The abandoned banner highlighted the developmental works, including upgradation and beautification of existing footpaths and disabled friendly tactile tiles on footpaths, proposed to be taken up by the Bangalore Smart City Limited in January 2021. The staff of Bal Bhavan are yet to remove the banner from the premises.

"The electronic boards may be inaugurated on January 26. The electronic boards are meant for providing data on facilities and amenities available here," said a Bal Bhavan employee on the condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, Bal Bhavan secretary Nischal said he was not aware of the amenities unused at the facility. "I will visit the spot," he said.

Before setting up malls, tech parks...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Anucheth further noted that if a mandate of obtaining NOC is put in place, it will help in traffic control. "For large establishments, a traffic mobility plan should be mandatory," he said adding that the department will be making a recommendation to the state government to seriously consider taking up the mechanism of obtaining NOCs from the traffic department prior to the occupancy certificate (OC) being provided by the municipal body in order to help control traffic snarls.

An online petition on Change.org started on December 21 called "Massive traffic Jam due to unplanned 'Mall of Asia,' impacting neighboring residential areas," received 4,331 signatures before being closed.

Phoenix Mall of Asia scenario

On Christmas Eve, Bellary Road, popularly known as the Airport Road, experienced massive traffic congestion after Phoenix Mall of Asia near Yelahanka witnessed a significant number of people trying to enter the premises. Visitors claimed the mall imposed a fee of Rs 200 for pedestrian entry while imposing Rs 150 for car entry.

The Bengaluru police on December 30 issued an order shutting down public access to the Phoenix Mall of Asia, with the restriction continuing from December 31 to January 15 citing lack of parking facilities and traffic congestion. However, the mall was reopened on January 1 after remaining closed on December 31 (New Year's Eve) since the Karnataka High Court on Sunday issued an order to the Bengaluru police not to take any precipitative action. Traffic police have held that Phoenix Mall of Asia draws around 10,000 vehicles, but parking capacity is only for 3,200 vehicles.

On the other hand, senior advocate Dhyan Chinnappa, representing the mall in the High Court in their petition had said that the situation is to be blamed on the police. "CCTV footage revealed that the traffic disruption caused by vehicles was not due to the petitioner but was mainly a result of the police blocking vehicle entry, leading to a jam outside the mall," the petition said, while alleging that the police have not bothered to respond to the suggestions on traffic management made by the petitioner in October.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I Anju Merin Jacob aged about 45 years M/o Jeremy John Jacob residing at No. 745, Logos Street, R S Palya, Maruthi Sevanagar Post, Bengaluru - 560033 wish to state that his mother's name (i.e. my name) is incorrectly printed as Anju Merin John in his passport. It has to be corrected to Anju Merin Jacob as per his 10th standard marks sheet and birth certificate vide affidavit dtd:02/01/2024 sworn before notary Uday Kumar K, B'luru

I, Mohiduni Sab Amanulla S/o Mohiduin Sab, Residing at Door 79, Hosur Road, R H Colony Mahalingeshwra Layout Bangalore - 560030, Have Changed My Name as Amanulla Mohiuddin Infront of Notary M Anantha Murthy, Vide Affidavit Dtd. 04-01-2024 on My Own Free Will. Hence Forth I Will Be Known, Called and Recognized as Amanulla Mohiuddin

I, Kapil Kumar Srivastava, R/o 1904, 7th Main, E Block, 2nd Stage, Subramanyanagar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010 have changed my daughter name (minor) from Kangna Srivastava to Kangana Srivastava and corrected her dob from 07-Nov-2010 to 07-Aug-2010.

I, SHANKAR SUBBARAO, R/a #No.61, Century Park Layout, Lokaranjan Mahal Road, Nazarabad, Mysore -570010. I, have changed my name to, SHANKARANANDA SWAMI, Vide affidavit, dated 01/01/2024 Sworn before Notary Sivakumara M.N, Bangalore

I, Ataulla Khan S/o Mansoor Ahmed Khan R/o 1579, Telegraph street, Venkateshpuram, Bengaluru 560045 have changed my name to ATTAULLA KHAN MANSOOR affidavit Dt.02/01/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Rajeev Sangappa Chatni S/o Sangappa Gurupadappa Chatni R/o C705, Nitesh Forest Hill Apt Seegehalli Road, Kadugodi, Blr-67, have changed my name to Rajeev Chatni vide affidavit No. IN-KA90356689269959W, Dtd: 04/01/24 before Notary M. Rajendra, B'lore.

I Nivedita W/O, Vivekananda Km R/o #71 3rd Cross Micolayout Chandralayout Vijayanagar Bangalore 560040 have changed my name to Niveditha K V.

I, Ganesh Prasad S S/o Swamynathan R/o #No 332/1 Church Road Last Sarakki Gurappa Reddy Colony Murugeshpalya Hal, Bengaluru- 560017, have changed my minor son's name about 06 years, from Taksh G to Taksh Prasad G.

I Shirish S/O, Madhukar Rao Kodagali R/o Flat No. 014, 6035/193/2, Shreenilayam Iii Apartments, Behind Bande Mutt, Kommaghatta Main Road, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore - 560060 have changed my name to Shirish Madhukar Rao.

I Imdath Ahmed S/o Masood Ahmed, Bengaluru have changed my name from Imdath Ahmed M to Imdath Ahmed for all future purposes.

I Shenoy Raghuram Ratnakar K S/O, K Ratnakar Shenoy R/o 106, Iris Block, Sonesta Cosmos, 13th Cross, 10th Main Maruthi Nagar, Malleshpalya Bengaluru, Karnataka 560075 India have changed my name to K Raghuram Shenoy.

I, Mohammad Abdul Basith Muttaki S/O Umar Muttaki R/o D 307, Kolte Patil Mirabilis, Horamavu, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name and shall be known as Muhammad Abdulbasith Muttaki S/O Umar Pendari.

I Rajat Motwani S/O, Mahesh Dayaldas Motwani R/o A1703, Bren Champions Square, Sarjapur Main Road, Bangalore, 560035 have changed my name to Rajat Mahesh Motwani.

I, Yasmeen Shakeel Amina Shaikh r/o c1803, Glen gate, house of Hiranandani, Bhadrappa layout, Kodigehalli main road, Bangalore-560092 have changed my name to Yasmeen Shaikh

I, Nidhi Sharma R/o #405, 4th Floor, Sri Sai Nivas, Trinity Complex, Sompura, Sarjapura, 562125 have changed my minor son's name from Vihaan Mewar to Vihaan Sharma.

I, Deepa S W/o Jayaraj P Menon R/o No.425, Ground floor, 4th C main, OMBR layout, Banaswadi, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name to look DEEPA JAYARAJ affidavit Dt 04/01/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, D.ganesh Rao S/o, E.dasrath Rao R/o # 207. 3rd B Main .2nd Floor Ombr Bda Layout Chickka Banaswadi Bengaluru Karnataka 560043 have changed my name to Sunil .d for all purposes.

I, Latha , W/o P. Raveendran, #18, I Main, II Cross, Dinnur, RT Nagar, Bangalore 560032 Have changed my name to LATHA RAVEENDRAN for all future purposes.

I SHAFI AHAMED S. S/o Sardar Ahamed R/o No: 15/3, 8th Cross, Padarayanapura Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to SHAFI AHAMED for all purposes

GALLERIA

Jacob Elordi's bath water is now a candle

Actor Jacob Elordi's bath water from the film 'Saltburn' has now been turned into a candle. The bath water, where the actor was seen doing an intimate act has been turned into a candle and is available for sale

WOW EFFECT

Katrina opens up about her first meeting with Vijay Sethupathi

Actor Katrina Kaif is currently busy promoting her upcoming thriller film 'Merry Christmas'.

Helmed by Sriram Raghavan, the film also stars South superstar Vijay Sethupathi in the lead role.

On Thursday, during a press conference, Katrina shared her experience of working with the 'Jawan' actor for the first time. She said, "Our first meeting was all three of us (Katrina, Vijay and Sriram Raghavan) together in a room and I had recently seen a picture of Vijay Sir and he had full white hair and a white beard. So when I entered the office I didn't know what to expect and when I saw him like this I said "oh wow" that's a really different look. Everything about this film I was extremely excited to be working with Sriram Sir and Vijay Sir and as soon as we came together in a room, I think everyone came just as themselves and we instantly were able to connect. The minute Vijay sir started speaking about the scene it was fascinating, I just thought that this is the person who uses things in such a unique way and Sriram Sir has a very unique take on everything he does."

Talking about 'Merry Christmas', the makers recently unveiled the film's official trailer which received good responses from the fans.

The film has been shot in two languages, with different supporting actors. The Hindi version also features Sanjay Kapoor, Vinay Pathak, Pratima Kannan, and Tinnu Anand. On the other hand, the Tamil version stars Radhika Sarathkumar, Shanmugaraja, Kevin Jay Babu, and Rajesh Williams in the same roles. Sharing the experience of working with director Sriram Raghavan, actor Katrina Kaif earlier said that working with Sriram Raghavan was a dream come true for her. "I feel incredibly fortunate to have had that opportunity. He's a phenomenal director with an incredible mind, and being on his set is like entering a whole different world."

"He's an amazing collaborator, as a filmmaker and as a person. It was a very intense experience, especially doing the film in two languages. All of us have been passionate about making this film from day 1 and are very excited for the release," she added. **—ANI**

Overwhelmed

Actor Shefali Shah once again left the audience mesmerised with her acting skills. She is being appreciated for her performance in 'Three of US'.

Directed by Avinash Arun, 'Three of Us' tells the tale of Shailaja Desai (Shefali Shah), a former Mumbai high court clerk, who grapples with a degenerative brain disease slowly erasing her past. The film follows her courageous quest to relive her childhood memories with the help of her childhood friend and sweetheart, Pradip Kamat (Jaideep Ahlawat).

The film was released in theatres last year but did not do well at the box office. However, the film is now receiving a lot of love on Netflix.

Taking a moment to acknowledge this outpouring of love and support, Shefali on Instagram wrote, "Thank you for all the love all of you (well most of you) are showering on 'THREE OF US' it's humbling and overwhelming. The interpretations you'll have of the minutest nuance, registering a look, a line, a gesture, a scene. It shows how deeply the film has affected you. This film was released in the theatres and it didn't do well at all. "

"But on OTT, even though it was released on the 2nd last day of 2023, a lot of you are touting it to be the best film of 2023 and that's a proof of what came from our hearts, will and has touched yours. We created something in complete honesty, giving it our all, baring ourselves which brought on surface your thoughts and feelings, and unhindered truth. Proving the strength of the connection between us and all of you even through a screen. And it just reinstates our faith in what we do, rather who we become, because you all believe it too. And we can't begin to thank you enough for it," she added.

Swanand Kirkire also played a pivotal role in the film.

— ANI

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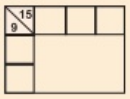
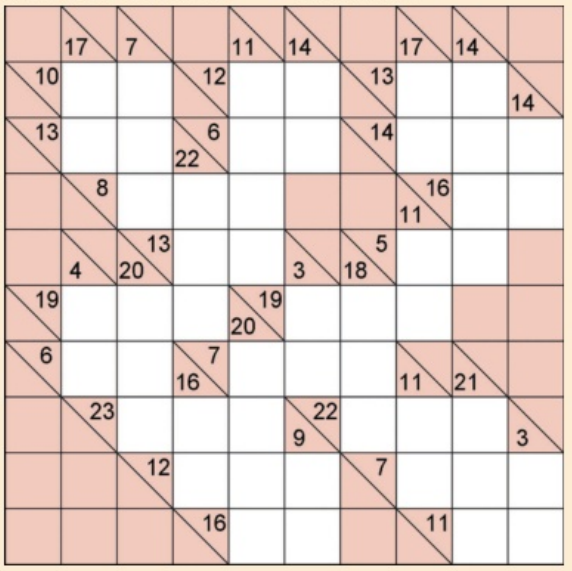
Kakuro

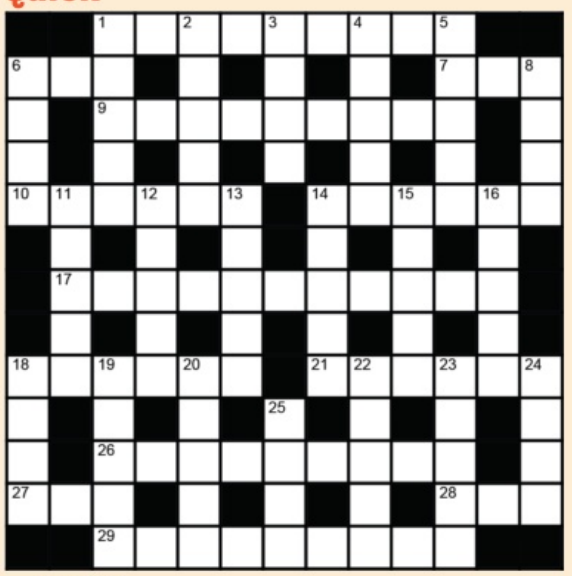
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Female offspring (9)
6 Alien vehicle (3)
7 Incline head (3)
9 Festival celebrated in January (9)
10 Put in (6)
14 Sagaciously (6)
17 Look into (11)
18 Poetries (6)
21 Force from office (6)
26 Officially authenticated (9)
27 61 in Roman numerals (3)
28 Sense of self (3)
29 Solicitor of votes at door? (9)

DOWN

1 Prescribed amounts (5)
2 Pertaining to the bone in the forearm (5)
3 Stringed instrument (4)
4 Utter boredom (5)
5 Shoot from cover (5)
6 A crossbred citrus fruit (4)
8 Contradict (4)
11 Bete ___ : Anathema (5)
12 Roof overhang (5)
13 Protruding teeth (5)
14 Uncanny or eerie or unearthly (5)
15 Spongy ground (5)
16 West Yorkshire city (5)
18 Small medicine bottle (4)
19 Pertaining to the ancient alphabet of the gypsies? (5)
20 Consumed (5)
22 Makes less severe (5)
23 Not as young (5)
24 Therefore; hence (4)
25 Operatic song (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: I EQUALS U

ZRMMDJVEE DE JPK EPTVKZDJY NPI MPEKMPJV GPH KZV GIKIHV; DK DE EPTVKZDJY NPI BVEDYJ GPH KZV MHVEVJK.

Linemaro

I love the way your eyes crinkle at the corners when you smile

Mindchow

Happiness often sneaks through a door you didn't know you left open

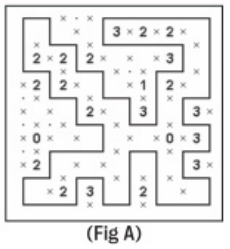
Joke of the day

I grew up with six brothers. That's how I learned to dance – waiting for the bathroom

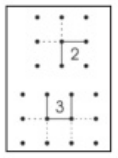
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

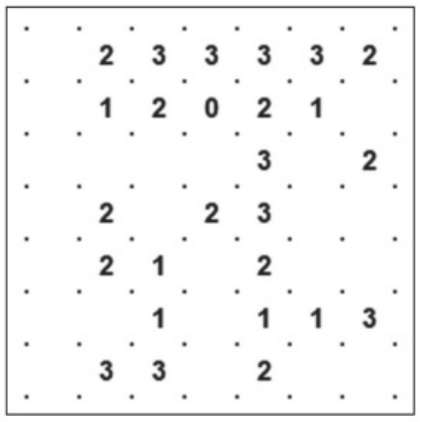


(Fig B) Not Allowed

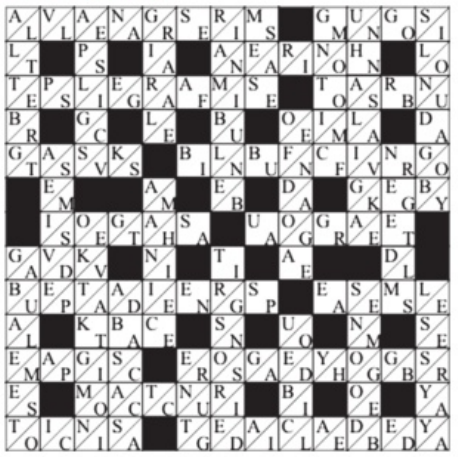
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



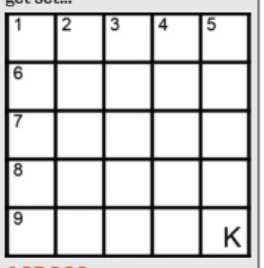
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

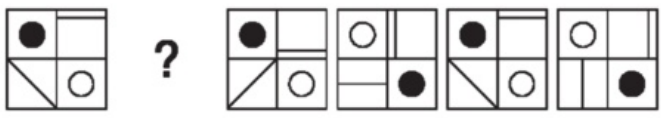
1 Snaps; 6 I talc;
7 Chore; 8 OK Che;
9 Ok Ski

DOWN

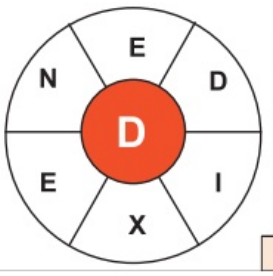
1 T sock; 2 Chi Pi;
3 A coho; 4 Ranks;
5 Keels

Mensapuzzle

Draw the missing figure in the below sequence.



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2			9				6	3
				4				
5	1			7	6			4
3		9			4	1		
4								6
		7	6			2		9
7			8	9			3	5
				5				
9	4				7			1

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 2

4 5 5 6

Medium = 11

4 7 8 8

Hard = 11

1 4 5 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

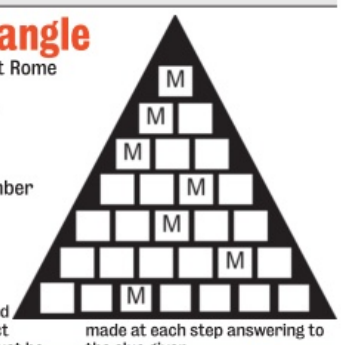
Differences: 1. Mailbox is higher. 2. Tree trunk is thicker. 3. Envelope is missing. 4. Thumb is moved. 5. Reflection lines on window are reversed. 6. Slot on top of shredder is missing.

Riddler

Sue was under her daily diet allowance by 90 calories. If she had consumed 20 per cent more, she would have been over it by 132 calories. What is Sue's daily diet allowance?

Alpha triangle

1 10 x 100 in ancient Rome
2 Microsoft abbr
3 Physicians: abbr.
4 Lowers the light
5 Ten cents coins
6 Jeans
7 Causes to remember



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

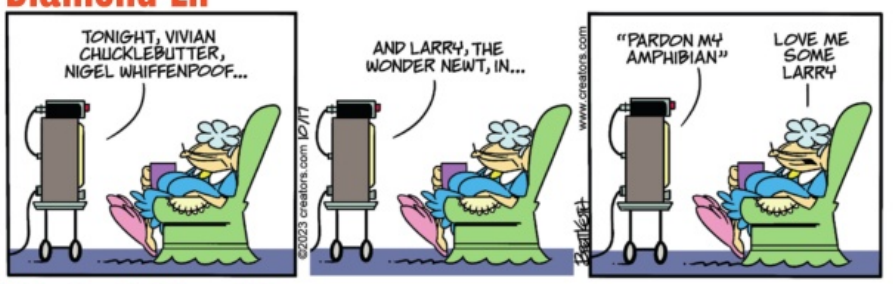
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil



Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today is a good day for you. You may experience good vitality and health. You may enjoy your work. It may be a challenge to control your straightforwardness. It is advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics; otherwise there may be some disputes in the family. If you are able to control your tongue, you may expect healthy partnerships in the business and harmony in the family. Job seekers may find a suitable job. Love birds are advised to avoid discussing frivolous matters.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today your spiritual power may make you happy. Your way of thinking may be positive. You are inclined to spiritualism today. You may plan to visit some religious place. You may also take interest in the occult. You are likely to observe flawlessness in your nature. It is advised to keep your views to yourself, or try to discuss it only with those, who may understand your frequency.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may hear good news in terms of jobs. Job seekers may be focused on cracking entrance exams with the help of hard work. Singles may get engaged with their soul mates. You may also hear some good news in terms of child birth.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today your vital power may slow down, and an old disease may reappear, which may make you upset. You are advised to avoid adventure tours or rushed driving. You are advised to avoid any type of ligations; you may try to settle it out of court. You may also plan for an overseas tour.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may feel nervous and experience lack of patience. Seeking peace, you may be attracted by the occult. It is advised to follow your intuition before going ahead. You may also get in-depth knowledge on a subject or you may gain renewed focus towards your research.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may plan for a change in place but it is advised to postpone any decision related to migration. It is also advised to avoid investment in business. By late evening, the situation may be under control. With the help of good advice from one of the elders, you may get control over a messy situation.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may get profits from your past investments. Your losses may convert into profits. Implementation of new ideas may help you get progress in the business. Today you may get success easily. You are likely to meet an influential person, who may show you the right path to success. Love birds may make some decisions in terms of marriage. Couples will hear good news in terms of kids. Job seekers will get suitable jobs.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, your moon is placed in a good position. You may expect some positive momentum in professional and domestic life. There are likely to be gains in terms of your investments. You may get reciprocation of your help from your friends and relatives. Your hard work may pay off in terms of success.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may expect some short business trips. You may also expect to get some rewards for success in your domain. You may witness a rise in respect for you from your peers. You may hear some good news from siblings. Job seekers, who are seeking management jobs , may get success. Singles are likely to get engaged.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today your family and spouse will support you and that will increase domestic harmony. Due to overload at work, you may not give proper time to your family. You may not be able to make it to a family get together. You are expected to gain some confidence on your professional front. Projects related to government agencies are likely to be initiated now.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may do better. Kids' health is better now. You can plan to make some investments for your kids' future. You are likely to be more loyal towards your job. Job seekers may find a good job with the help of reference. You may be able to find your hidden enemies and with the help of blessings, you may counter them.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you are blessed by your elders. New sources of income are likely to be opened which will boost your bank balance. You may plan to renovate your house. You may get a big order, which can grow your family business multiple times. You need to keep patience while signing any contract. There may be some movement in your business and delayed projects will start again.

KIDZONE

Noorain Shariff, 9 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School

Jeevan D, 7 Years, Cadambi Vidya Kendra

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= 1 + 2 + 6 x 24 – 120
= 1 + 2 + 144 – 120 = 27

RIDDLER
One thousand two hundred calories

QUOTE UNCODE
Happiness is not something you postpone for the future; it is something you design for the present.

FAST FIVE

S	P	A	N	S
T	I	C	A	L
O	C	H	R	E
C	H	O	K	E
K	I	O	S	K

BULL'S EYE
dead, denied, dined, ended, indeed, index, INDEXED, need

STRIKE OUT

A	V	E	N	G	E	R	S	■	M	U	G	S	■	■
■	I	O	T	A	S	■	A	G	R	E	E	■	D	■
■	M	■	E	■	A	■	K	E	Y	■	■	■	■	■
T	A	S	K	■	B	L	U	F	F	I	N	G	■	■
R	■	C	■	L	■	B	■	O	■	I	■	L	■	D
E	P	I	G	R	A	M	S	■	T	A	B	U	■	■
L	■	P	■	I	■	A	R	O	N	■	L	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
The top left-hand corner alternates black dot/white dot; the top left-hand corner alternates horizontal line/vertical line; the bottom left-hand corner line moves diagonal/ vertical/diagonal, and the bottom right-hand corner alternates white dot/black dot.

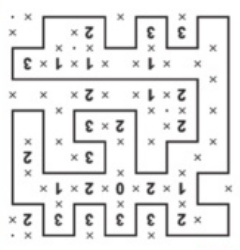
SUDOKU

9	4	5	3	6	7	8	2	1
8	3	1	4	5	2	6	9	7
7	2	6	8	9	1	4	3	5
1	8	7	6	3	5	2	4	9
4	5	2	1	8	9	3	7	6
3	6	9	7	2	4	1	5	8
5	1	3	2	7	6	9	8	4
6	9	8	5	4	3	7	1	2
2	7	4	9	1	8	5	6	3

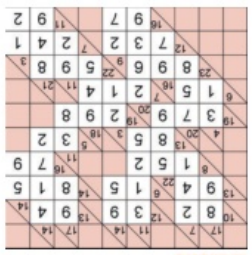
ALPHA TRIANGLE
M, Ms, Mds, Dims, Dimes, Demins, Reminds.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 + 5 – 4 – 5 = 2
Medium
4 + 7 + 8 – 8 = 11
Hard
3 x 5 – 4 x 1 = 11

LOOP



KAKURO



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